

February 2013



Kent & New Castle County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Kent & New Castle County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

Kent County FSA Office

800 Bay Road, Suite 2

Dover, DE 19901

Phone: (302) 741-2600 ext.2

Fax: (302) 741- 0347

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee Members:

Frank Hrupsa

Bea Moor

Louis Starkey

Regular Session County Committee meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and are open to the public.

County Office Staff:

Tammy Foraker

2012 County Committee Election Results

Kent County 2012 Election Results:

Congratulations to Bea Moor, who was re-elected to represent farmers on the Kent County FSA Committee. Bea was elected to her 2nd consecutive term.

The election results for Local Administrative Area LAA 1 are:

Bea Moor - Elected to the County Committee

Bruce Snow - 1st Alternate to the County Committee

Gordon Dunning - 2nd Alternate to the County Committee

Kent County Make-Up Election Results:

Congratulations to Louis Starkey, who was elected to represent farmers on the Kent County FSA Committee. Louis was elected to his 1st term.

The Make-up election results for Local Administrative Area LAA3 are:

Louis Starkey - Elected to the County Committee

Bentley Blessing - 1st Alternate to the County Committee

Mary Gooden - 2nd Alternate to the County Committee

New Castle County Election Results:

Congratulations to SR Smith III, who was elected to represent farmers on the New Castle County FSA Committee. SR was elected to his 3rd

Ryan Maloney

consecutive term.

Carrie Strachar

The election results for Local Administrative Area LAA2 are:

New Castle County FSA Office

2430 Old County Road

Newark, DE 19702

Phone: (302) 832-3100

Fax: (302) 834-0783

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee Members:

David Blendt

Linda Brown

SR Smith III

Regular Session County Committee meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and are open to the public.

County Office Staff:

Helen Sureda

County Executive Director:

New Castle & Kent County

Maryann Reed

Farm Loan Officer

Jennifer Feindt

(302) 856-3990 ext. 107

SR Smith III - Elected to the County Committee

FSA appreciates all of the voters taking the time to complete the election ballots. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will began sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact our office for more information.
Kent - (302) 741-2600 ext.2 New Castle - (302) 832-3100 ext.2

MILC Contracts Automatically Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill.

There is a one time relief period to elect a new start month that **ends February 28**; after the relief period, the normal rules regarding start month selection will apply. During this relief period, new producers that have been in operation before February 1 also can submit an application for MILC payments.

Please contact the kent County office at (302) 741-2600 ext. 2 or the New Castle County Office at (302) 832-3100 ext.2 if you have any questions regarding the 2013 MILC program extension or your program eligibility.

Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and FY.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits.

Delaware State Director

Bob Walls

(302) 678-4250

www.fsa.usda.gov

This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months of when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates will be the same as the regular Operating Loan rates.

If you would like more information about the Microloan Program, please contact our **Farm Loan Officer, Jennifer Feindt at (302) 856-3990 ext.107.**

FSA's GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices have moved to a paperless news distribution system.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system, which provides notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free email updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

IRS 1099-G Changes

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who received payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties was \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).